



## Washington State Department of Transportation

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: The meeting site is accessible to persons with disabilities. Accommodations for people with disabilities can be arranged with advance notice by calling Kerry Grant at (509) 577-1760.

Visit us on the Web!  
<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/US12/SR124Wallula/>

**MAKING PROGRESS  
FOR SAFETY**

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Four-laning US Highway 12 Phase 1 Commemorative Drawing by Joyce Anderson

The US Highway 12 Coalition commissioned Joyce Anderson, a Walla Walla artist, to create a watercolor drawing of the Casey Pond wildlife area. It reflects the Washington State Department of Transportation's commitment to enhancing the safety of US Highway 12 while protecting and improving the environmental character of the Casey Pond area.

If you wish to obtain a copy of the drawing, please contact the Port of Walla Walla at (509) 525-3100.



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# US 12 UPDATE

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## Public Events

**June 1, 2006**

US 12  
Frenchtown to Walla Walla  
Environmental Assessment

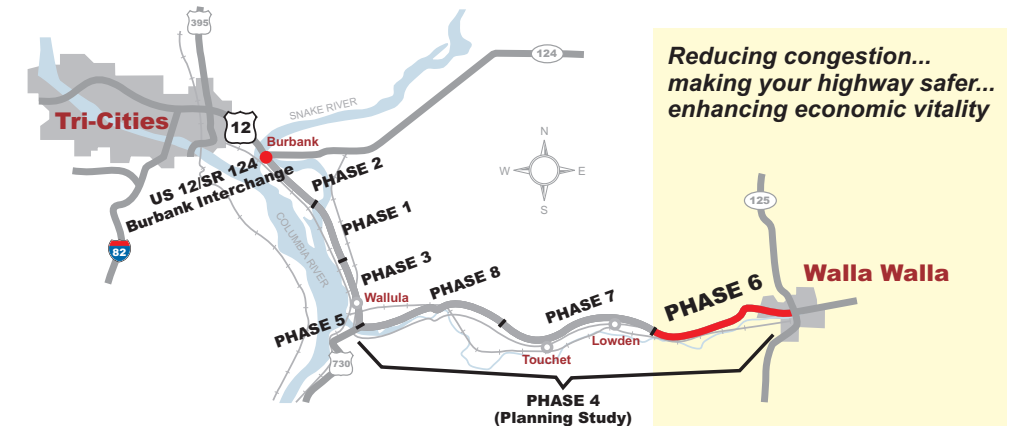
Open House

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Walla Walla Airport

Contact: Kerry Grant,  
WSDOT Project Engineer  
(509) 577-1760



## Open house showcases US 12 Frenchtown to Walla Walla Environmental Assessment



WSDOT invites the public to an open house in the conference room at the Walla Walla Airport 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, June 1. The department will present the Environmental Assessment for the sixth phase of the project to widen US 12 between Burbank and Walla Walla from two to four lanes. Copies of the Environmental Assessment for this phase of the project will be available for review.

WSDOT experts will be on hand to answer your questions during the event. Public comment is encouraged. A court reporter will be present to record public opinion; the department will also provide and collect comment forms. Three times each hour, a WSDOT representative will provide an event overview, allowing the public to attend when it is convenient for them without missing information.

## COALITION'S CORNER

James M. Kuntz  
Port of Walla Walla Executive Director  
U.S. Highway 12 Coalition Member

The U.S. Highway 12 Coalition is committed to four-laning U.S. Highway 12 from Burbank to Walla Walla. With Phase 6 fully funded from the City of Walla Walla to McDonald Road near Lowden, the coalition has turned its attention to securing the funding for Phase 7. This phase of the project will four-lane U.S. Highway 12 from McDonald Road west to Nine Mile Hill.

Cantwell and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris have expressed their continued support for the four-laning of U.S. Highway 12. Thanks to their strong leadership the U.S. Highway 12 Coalition has received \$16.8 million in federal funding since 2003.

The Coalition would also like to recognize the contributions made by our state legislative delegation. Senator Mike Hewitt, Representative Bill Grant, and Maureen Walsh have helped secure critical state funding. Since 2002, \$105 million in state funding has been allocated to U.S. Highway 12 four-laning.

By working together, our community's long sought after goal of a four-lane freeway from Burbank to Walla Walla will become a reality.

In late April, a small contingency of U.S. Highway 12 Coalition members traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with our Congressional Delegation. The Coalition is seeking a \$4.2 million transportation appropriation for fiscal year 2007. The money would be used for Phase 7 design work and environmental documentation. Once completed, the coalition will turn its attention to securing construction funding. Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria

# Your money’s worth: Greater safety, economic vitality among US 12 project benefits

WSDOT’s ambitious project to expand US 12 from two to four lanes between Burbank and Walla Walla benefits eastern Washington by improving safety on this busy roadway, as well as setting the stage for increased economic development along the corridor.

**Priority One: Driver safety**

The section of US 12 from the Tri-Cities to Walla Walla is a heavily traveled roadway; as many as 13,000 vehicles use the route on a given day. Fully one-third of those vehicles are commercial trucks, hauling over ten million tons of cargo each year. The traffic volume and the mix of freight and passenger vehicles increases the risk of collisions. There have been more than one thousand accidents on this stretch of US 12 over the last fifteen years, leading to thirty fatalities and hundreds of injuries. Expanding the roadway from two to four lanes will yield an immediate safety benefit; the Traffic Safety Bureau estimates a forty percent reduction in serious injury and fatal crashes can be expected on a highway improved from two to four lanes.

**Boosting the local economy**

Economic development depends on access to a high-quality transportation system. Most businesses that ship or store products prefer to be located within a few miles of a four-lane or larger roadway. The completed expansion of US 12 will entice businesses to the Walla Walla valley, bringing jobs and needed tax revenue with them.

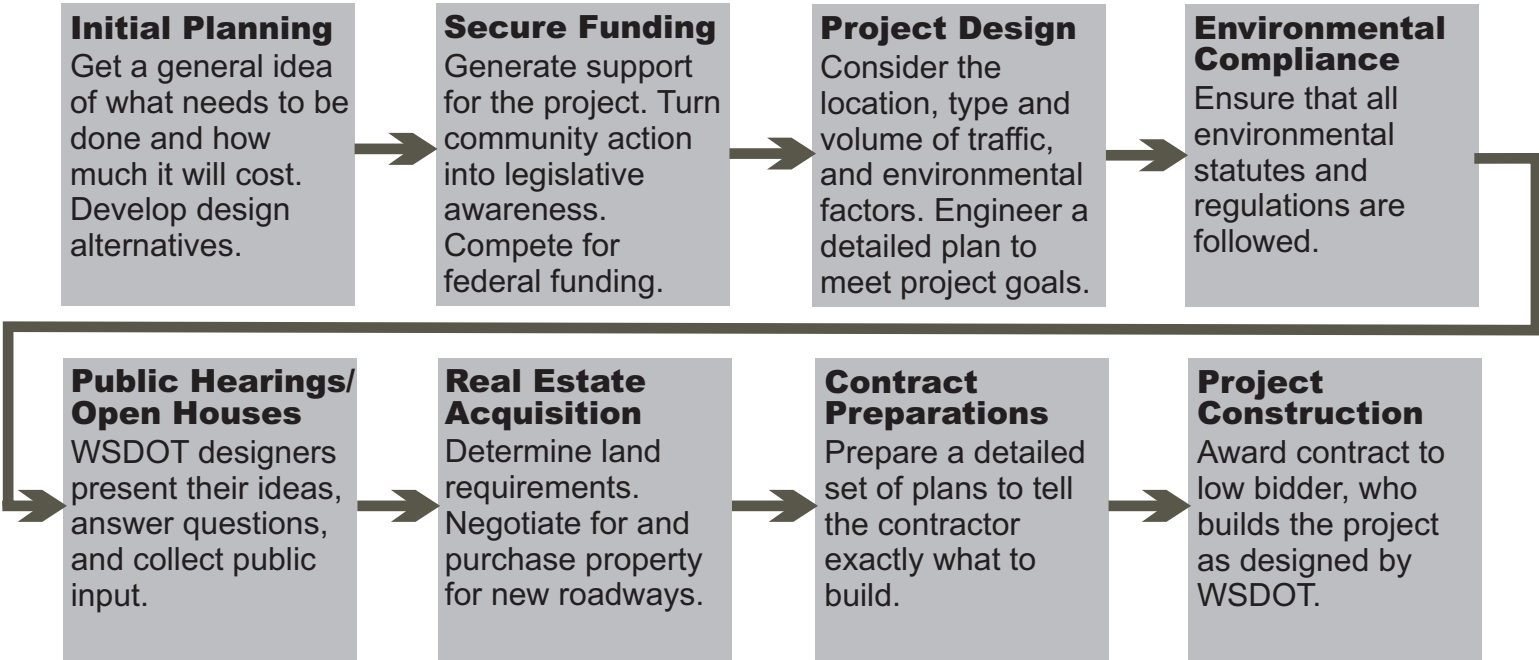


This traffic signal at the intersection of US 12 and SR 124 improves safety. The intersection will eventually be replaced by a full interchange.

“Washington’s Future Just Got Better”  
**MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT.**

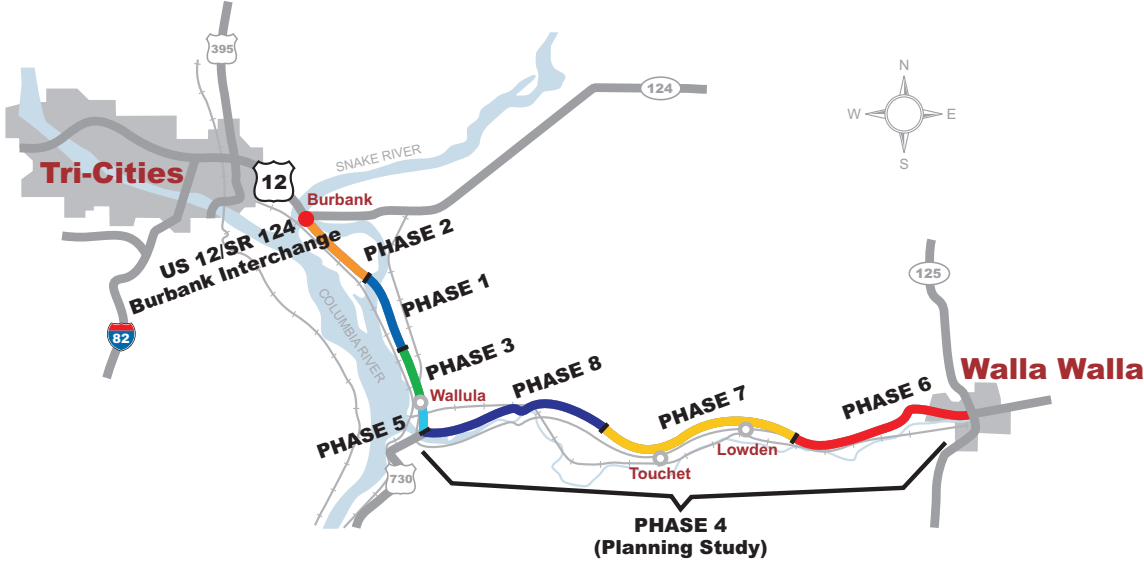
## How does a WSDOT project get built?

It’s much more than laying down cones and pouring concrete. Here are the steps we take to complete a project.



And it doesn’t end there! Regular inspections and maintenance procedures are scheduled, and the entire project process is reviewed so we can see ways in which we can save time and money on the next project.

## PROJECT PROGRESS



**US 12/SR 124 - Burbank Interchange** MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT. This project will construct an interchange at the junction of US 12 and SR 124. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2009.

**PHASE 1 - US 12 McNary Pool to Attalia** This project added an additional lane in each direction from Casey Pond to the Dodd Road area, replaced a bridge, and constructed environmental mitigation features. Work was completed in August 2004.

**PHASE 2 - SR 124 to McNary Pool** IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK. This project added one additional lane in each direction from SR 124 to Casey Pond for a total of four lanes. Work was completed in October 2005.

**PHASE 3 - Attalia Vicinity** IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK. This project will add one additional lane in each direction from the Dodd Road area to the Boise Cascade area for a total of four lanes. Design work was finished in November 2005; construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2006.

**PHASE 4 - Walla Walla to Wallula Planning Study** IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK. This planning study, encompassing phases 6, 7, and 8, investigates and documents existing social, economic, and environmental conditions to determine an appropriate alignment of US 12 from Walla Walla to the Wallula Junction. Preliminary design and environmental documentation continues, focusing on phases 6 and 8.

**PHASE 5 - Attalia Vicinity to US 730** IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK. This project will add one additional lane in each direction from the Boise Cascade area to the Wallula Junction for a total of four lanes. Design for this phase is scheduled to begin in 2006.

**PHASE 6 - McDonald Road to Walla Walla** MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT. This project will relocate US 12 from the McDonald Road area to Walla Walla and expand it to a four-lane divided highway. An open house for the public to review the environmental assessment and provide comments is scheduled for June 1, 2006.

**PHASE 7 - Nine Mile Hill to McDonald Road** This project will reconstruct US 12 from Nine Mile Hill to McDonald Road as a four-lane divided highway. This project is not currently funded for design or construction.

**PHASE 8 - Wallula Junction to Nine Mile Hill** This project will reconstruct US 12 from Wallula Junction to Nine Mile Hill as a four-lane divided highway. This project is not currently funded for design or construction.

These projects will expand the two-lane highway to a four-lane divided highway between Burbank and Walla Walla. This work will improve safety, decrease congestion, and enhance economic vitality.

**IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK.**

These projects are funded in part by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package. The main source of funding is a 5¢ increase in the gas tax. The package also includes an increase in the large truck gross weight fee and a 0.3 percent vehicle sales tax.

“Washington’s Future Just Got Better”  
**MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT.**

These projects are funded in part by the 2005 Transportation Partnership Funding Package. The main source of funding is a 9.5¢ increase in the gas tax, phased in over four years. The package also includes a new vehicle weight fee and increases in other license fees and charges.